

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SP-02 L-03

H-02 OMB-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 /081 W

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P 251719Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1290

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15461

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF DG M'BOW AT PRIVATE EXBD SESSION
ON STATUS US CONTRIBUTION AND OTHER
MATTERS

1. DG M'BOW SPOKE AT LENGTH TO PRIVATE SESSION EXBD
ON FINANCIAL STATUS UNESCO, PARTICULARLY EFFECT US NON-
PAYMENT. AFTER REVIEWING CURRENT CASH SITUATION, WHICH
M'BOW SAID WILL TAKE ORGANIZATION ONLY TO SEPTEMBER 1,
HE WENT INTO STATUS US CONTRIBUTION. M'BOW IN CAREFULLY
CHOSEN LANGUAGE MADE REFERENCE TO HIS LETTER TO SECRE-
TARY KISSINGER AND TO THE REPLY RECEIVED. M'BOW DID NOT
READ EITHER HIS LETTER OR THE RESPONSE FROM THE US, BUT
ONLY PARAPHRASED CONTENTS. M'BOW SAID HE APPRECIATED
RECEIVING THE REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY ALTHOUGH HE WAS
DISAPPOINTED AT THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE. M'BOW THEN
PARAPHRASED THE CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT WAS SET
FORTH. M'BOW STRESSED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE US HAD AN
OBLIGATION AND THAT THE CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO WAS NOT
VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE. M'BOW SAID HE WAS NOT REPLYING
TO THE LETTER OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AS HE HAD COMMUNI-
CATED HIS VIEWS PERSONALLY IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
THIS, OF COURSE, WAS DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE MEETING

WITH SECRETARY LEWIS. THE ENTIRE TENOR OF M'BOW'S STATEMENT WAS MILD AND MODERATE AND HE SEEMED TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY NOT TO PROVOKE CRITICISM OF THE US NON-PAYMENT.

2. M'BOW CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT ON US NON-PAYMENT BY SAYING THAT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACTION ON US NON-PAYMENT AND HE URGED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENTS TO PAY THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. M'BOW ALSO WENT OVER THE CURRENT STATUS OF NON-INTEREST LOANS AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THEM. HE SAID THAT IT WAS ONLY THROUGH THESE LOANS THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS PROGRAM.

4. THE SECOND ITEM OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE IN M'BOW'S STATEMENT WAS HIS DECISION TO PUT OFF THE SCHEDULED CONFERENCE ON RACE AND RACISM WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SET FOR JANUARY, 1976, BUT WAS PUT OFF UNTIL JULY, 1976. M'BOW SAID THAT THE SECRETARIATE HAD PREPARED THE DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE AND WOULD SEND THEM TO MEMBER STATES FOR COMMENTS. HE WOULD ALLOW 3 MONTHS FOR COMMENTS TO BE RECEIVED AND THEN ASK THE SECRETARIATE TO PREPARE A SYNTHESIS OF REPLIES AS THE BASIC DOCUMENT FOR THE MEETING. AS THE SECRETARIATE DOCUMENT HAS JUST BEEN FINISHED AND NOT YET RELEASED OR MAILED OUT, 3 MONTHS WOULD PUT THE TIME FOR REPLY UP TO SEPTEMBER AND IT WOULD THEN BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PREPARE THE FINAL DOCUMENT BEFORE THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. IN EFFECT, THIS MEANS THE MEETING WILL HAVE TO BE PUT OFF UNTIL AFTER THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. M'BOW SAID HE WOULD EXPLAIN THIS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE INTENDED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE UNLESS THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL REQUESTS FROM MEMBER STATES TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE AS SCHEDULED. THUS, HIS PROPOSITION IS NOT A GUARANTEE THAT THE MEETING WILL BE PUT OFF, BUT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT M'BOW INTENDS TO DO SO UNLESS PRESSURED OTHERWISE.

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5. THE DECISION OF M'BOW TO PUT OFF THE RACISM MEETING IS CERTAINLY A POLITICAL ONE AND HE MAY BE CRITICIZED BY MORE RADICAL STATES AND HE RISKS BEING CRITICIZED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. HE EVIDENTLY TOOK THE RISK OF CRITICISM TO AVOID A FURTHER POLITICALLY MOTIVATED CONFERENCE THAT WOULD ALMOST SURELY RAISE THE "ZIONISM"

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1291

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NESCO

ISSUE.

6. M'BOW ALSO TRACED HIS TRAVELS AND MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS HEADS OF STATE. HE REFERRED TO CONTINUING PRESS CRITICISM OF UNESCO AND WENT INTO SOME DETAIL CONCERNING HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS IN NEW YORK DURING HIS TRIP TO THE US LAST FALL. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE LUNCHEON THAT WAS HOSTED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL.

7. M'BOW EXPLAINED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION POLICIES SET FOR SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA. M'BOW SAID THAT UNESCO HAD BEEN CRITICIZED IN THE PRESS FOR THE MEETING OF EXPERTS THAT HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE AND HE LINKED THIS PRESS CRITICISM WITH THAT ON THE ISRAELI ISSUE.

8. M'BOW ALSO REVIEWED THE ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN AT HEADQUARTERS AS A RESULT OF THE FIRE BOMBINGS THAT OCCURRED SOME MONTHS BACK. HE PLACED THE COST AT \$150,000.

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9. COMMENT: THE TONE OF M'BOW'S REFERENCES TO THE US WERE PARTICULARLY GUARDED AND MODERATE. HE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE WOULD NOT WELCOME A DEBATE ON THE ISSUE AND THIS EFFECTIVELY CLOSED OFF ALL DISCUSSION. M'BOW WAS SUPPORTED BY WYNTER, EXBD CHAIRMAN, WHO SKILLFULLY FOLLOWED M'BOW AND GUIDED THE BOARD AWAY FROM ANY QUESTIONS OR DEBATE ON THE ISSUE OF US NON-PAYMENT. GAMMON

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